

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1220

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016

Expansion of EPF Coverage

Chinnayan Shri S.Selvakumara

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring construction workers and auto drivers under EPF coverage and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to extend medical facility under ESIC scheme even after the retirement of the employees and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received requests from various quarters in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 applies to every establishment specified in Schedule I and establishments specified by Central Government by notification in official gazette wherein 20 or more persons are employed. The establishments engaged in building & construction industry were brought under the purview of the Act with effect from 31st October, 1980. Therefore, all construction workers working in establishments employing 20 and more employees are eligible for membership of Schemes framed under the Act. As the Act applies to establishments and not a particular class of employees, only such commercial auto drivers who are working in establishments covered under the Act, are eligible for membership of Schemes framed under the Act.

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(b): As per Rule 61 of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) (Central) Rules, 1950, "an Insured Person (IP) who leaves the insurable employment on attaining the age of superannuation or retires under a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) or takes premature retirement after being insured for not less than five years shall be eligible to receive medical benefit for himself and his spouse at the scale prescribed under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 and the regulations made therein under Rule 61 of ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 on payment of contribution at the rate of ten rupees per month in lump sum for one year at a time in advance subject to production of proof of his superannuation/VRS/Pre-mature retirement and having been in insurable employment for five years."

(c): Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) had received requests from various quarters regarding extension of medical facility under above provisions to the widows of the retired employees also.

(d): On the basis of requests from different corners, the scope of Medical Benefit has been extended to widow spouses of deceased retired/superannuated IP and widow spouses of Insured Persons who cease to be in an Insurable Employment on account of permanent disablement (full or partial) in accordance with Rule 60 & 61 of ESI (Central) Rules, 1950. This benefit is also made available to widows of Insured Persons who are in receipt of Dependent Benefit.
